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CENTRAL FAX CENTER****IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450****DEC 20 2005**

Appl No.: 10/734,952  
Applicant: Rafael C. Lopez  
Filing Date: 12/12/2003  
Art Unit: 3726  
Examiner: Cozart, Jermie E.  
Attorney Docket No.: 020913.0136US

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AFFIRMATION OF ELECTION**

The Office considered the claims of the present application to be directed to patentably distinct species. Specifically, the Examiner required election of species A (claims 1-16), drawn to a ladder station supporting device, and species B (claims 17-24), drawn to an assembly machine for stacking blind slats, and species C (claim 25), drawn to a ladder station. During a telephone conversation on October 12, 2005, Mr. Robert Fish made a provisional election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Species A, claims 1-6. Claims 17-25 are withdrawn.

**RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**

Sir:

This paper responds to the Office Action dated October 21, 2005. Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

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**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 11 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and annotated sheet showing changes.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.

**An Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 14 of this paper.